

March 9, 2022

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

We write to you today as members of the Semilla Collective of New Haven to strongly voice our support for S.B. No. 284: “AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS”.

The Semilla Collective of New Haven is a grassroots collective. We are workers, community organizers, healthcare workers, public school educators, legal professionals, students, parents, artists, and advocates for immigrant justice. A diverse group of immigrants and immigrant allies living on Quinnipiac land in New Haven, we are using our collective imagination to build a better world for future generations. We know this vision requires fighting to ensure that safe, affordable, and accessible healthcare is available for everyone in our community.

Senate Bill 284 is an important step forward to make that vision a reality. Senate Bill 284 will expand HUSKY health coverage to children up to the age of 18 regardless of immigration status, who otherwise meet the current HUSKY program eligibility criteria. Last year, Connecticut expanded access to HUSKY to children ages 0-8 years. Passage of SB 284 this year would ensure that children will not age out of coverage once they turn 9 years old and be left without healthcare.

Expanding HUSKY’s eligibility to all children regardless of their immigration status will be an important tool to equalize access to health care coverage and help reduce the uninsured rate in Connecticut. In our community, expanding HUSKY will mean that more of our children will have access to lifesaving medicine and mental health care services, will benefit from precautionary care, and will be able to live healthier and safer lives.

For our children’s health and futures, we, the members of the Semilla Collective are proud to support S.B. No 284. Our children’s health can’t wait and We believe that S.B. No 284 with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, will be transformative for our community and immigrant communities throughout New Haven and we strongly urge the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

The Semilla Collective of New Haven